

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1 through 53 as indicated below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer system, said computer system comprising:

a plurality of server computer devices remotely accessible to a plurality of user client computer devices via a global communications network, wherein each server computer device of the plurality of server computer devices is programmed to[:] support at least one activity of a plurality of activities that contribute to provid[e]ing a single system, remotely available over [a]the global communications network, for shipping management by each respective shipper of a plurality of shippers for each respective parcel [from]of a plurality of parcels that each respective [S]shipper of [a]the plurality of [S]shippers ships using any [one]respective shipping service of a plurality of shipping services offered by any [one]respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, wherein at least one server computer device of the plurality of server computer devices is programmed to poll respective carrier systems via the global communications network for tracking information.

2. (Currently Amended) A method using a computer system, wherein said computer system comprises a plurality of server computer devices, and wherein at least one server computer device of the plurality of server computer devices is programmed to remotely communicate, during any particular time period, with each user client computer device of a plurality of user client computer devices via a global communications network, said method comprising:

programming each server computer device of the plurality of server

computer devices to support at least one activity of a plurality of activities that contribute to providing a single system, remotely available over [a]the global communications network, for shipping management by each respective shipper of a plurality of shippers for each respective parcel [from]of a plurality of parcels that each respective [S]shipper of [a]the plurality of [S]shippers ships using any [one]respective shipping service of a plurality of shipping services offered by any [one]respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, wherein at least one server computer device of the plurality of server computer devices is programmed to poll respective carrier systems via the global communications network for tracking information.

3. (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer system, wherein said computer system comprises a plurality of server computer devices, and wherein at least one server computer device of the plurality of server computer devices is programmed to remotely communicate, during any particular time period, with each user client computer device of a plurality of user client computer devices via a global communications network, said computer program product comprising:

a respective set of program instructions for respective execution by each respective server computer device of the plurality of server computer devices for supporting at least one activity of a plurality of activities that contribute to providing a single system, remotely available over [a]the global communications network, for shipping management by each respective shipper of a plurality of shippers for each respective parcel [from]of a plurality of parcels that each respective [S]shipper of [a]the plurality of [S]shippers ships using any [one]respective shipping service of a plurality of shipping services offered by any [one]respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, wherein at least one set of program instructions for at least one server computer device of the plurality of server computer devices instructs the at least one server computer device to poll respective carrier systems via the global communications network for tracking information.

4. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

display limit an identification of a plurality of carriers for selection by a second user, according to a subset of carriers from a plurality of carriers, according to a set of specifications of wherein the subset of carriers is identified by a first user for display to the second user.

5. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

customize a calculation, and a display to a second user, of itemized charges and of a total for payment by [a]the second user, wherein said calculation and said display are customized according to a set of itemized charge presentation preferences from a plurality of itemized charge presentation options according to a set of itemized charge presentation preferences specified by a first user.

6. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

collect as itemized charge presentation preferences of a first user, a user input from the first user of an identification of itemized shipping charge presentation options for presentation to any buying user; and

store in a database the itemized shipping charge presentation preferences of the first user.

7. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

display limit an identification of a subset of a plurality of payment methods for selection by a second user, wherein the identification of the subset is

displayed according to a set of preferred payment methods selected by a first user from [a]the plurality of payment methods ~~according to a set of specifications of a first user.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

collect as preferred payment methods of a first user for use by any buying user, a first-user input [of]by the first user of a selection of at least one payment method from a plurality of payment methods; and

store in a database the preferred payment methods of the first user.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, said computer system programmed to:

create at a linkable address on a server computer, an electronic commerce site from which a second user can perform a particular activity, wherein the particular activity is characterized by a set of options[,] in accordance with a particular first user's option preferences.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, said computer system programmed to:

create a hypertext link template containing variable data and global communications address fields;

collect user input of data from a first user;

populate a plurality of variable data fields in the hypertext link template with the collected user input data; and

populate at least one global communications address field with a universal address location corresponding to an address at which program instructions for processing the data in the variable data fields is located; and
present the hypertext link to a second user.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, said computer system programmed to:

collect from a first user, service information about a service to be provided by the first user;

collect from a second user, a request[ing] for the service from the first user, and delivery information about delivery of the service; and

prepare information about the service according to the delivery requesting information provided by the second user and according to the service information provided by the first user.

12. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

collect from a first user ~~having access to~~ via a first computer device, a set of information comprising: parcel specifications for shipping a particular parcel, shipping preferences, and selling preferences; and

collect from a second user ~~having access to~~ via a second computer device, a set of recipient information comprising: a destination zip code, a selection of a carrier and a selection of a service offered by the selected carrier.

13. (Currently Amended) A multi-carrier shipping management computer system, said multi-carrier shipping management computer system programmed to:

generate a respective unique tracking number for each respective parcel to be shipped using [a]the multi-carrier[,] shipping management computer system, wherein each respective unique tracking number uniquely identifies the

respective parcel with respect to the multi-carrier, shipping management computer system.

14. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

identify a relationship between a system-generated unique tracking number that uniquely identifies a corresponding parcel with respect to the multi-carrier, shipping management computer system, [and a] the corresponding parcel, and a corresponding carrier-specific tracking number; and

store each system-generated unique tracking number relationship with the corresponding carrier-specific tracking number and the corresponding parcel relationship in a memory accessible by the shipping management computer system database.

15. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

associate a system-generated unique tracking number for a respective parcel shipped using the multi-carrier, shipping management computer system, with a respective carrier-specific tracking number; and

respond to an input of the system-generated [a] unique tracking number [for] that corresponds to the respective [each] parcel to be shipped using the system wherein each parcel is characterized by a set of parcel specifications and each shipment of each parcel is characterized by a set of shipment specifications, by obtaining shipment status information from a respective carrier system according to the respective carrier-specific tracking number.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, said computer system programmed to:

communicate a notification to notify a first user that a second user has refused to complete a purchase of an item, wherein said notification is

communicated after a first point in time [that]at which the second user has indicated to the first user that the second user wanted to purchase the item, and after a second point in time [that]at which the first user has indicated to the second user that the item is available to the second user for purchase, but before the second user has provided delivery [and]or payment information to the first user.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, said computer system programmed to:

collect as refusal information, an input by a particular second user of a refusal to complete a purchase via the computer system from a particular first user.

18. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

generate a shipping log entry to a shipping log of a first user in response to a shipping selection by a second user of a service and a carrier, wherein said shipping log entry contains a unique identifier corresponding to a particular item to be shipped and further corresponding to a database entry for the particular item further containing information corresponding to the shipping selection by the second user of the selected service and the carrier.

19. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

recognize as a selection of a respective carrier of a plurality of carriers and a respective service of a plurality of services, a selection by [the]a second user of a particular shipping rate from an online interactive comparison display, said shipping rate corresponding to a shipping of a particular item by the selected

respective carrier and the ~~selected~~ respective service shipping a particular item;
and

generate an entry to a shipping log of a ~~second~~ first user for shipping the particular item using [a]the ~~selected~~ respective carrier and the respective service.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, said computer system programmed to:

automatically notify a second user that a first user has taken an action with respect to an item ordered from the first user by the second user.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, said computer system programmed to:

recognize as an action, confirmation for a particular item ordered by a second user, a selection by a first user of a unique identifier corresponding to the particular ~~ordered~~ item, said selection of the unique identifier comprising an indication by the first user of an entry in from an online electronic list of ordered items, said list corresponding to a next action status regarding the listed ordered items.

22. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

receive an online tracking request for a respective particular parcel from a respective user, wherein the respective user submits the online tracking request to the shipping management computer system via a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein the online tracking request comprises a tracking number that corresponds to the respective particular parcel;

identify a respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, wherein the respective carrier corresponds to the tracking number;

track a shipping status of each of a plurality of the respective particular parcel[s], wherein each parcel is shipped by one of a plurality of services offered by one of a plurality of carriers; and

respond to the online tracking request with an online tracking report regarding the shipping status of the respective particular parcel.

23. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

poll, via a global communications network, an appropriate carrier shipping status system from a plurality of carrier shipping status systems in response to an online user tracking request to obtain current tracking status information for a particular package, wherein the appropriate carrier shipping status system corresponds to the online user tracking request; and

respond to the online user tracking request with an online tracking report regarding the shipping status of the particular package.

24. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

recognize as a tracking request, a request by a user to track a particular parcel, wherein said tracking request compris[ing]es a unique, system-generated number tracking number.

25. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

for each respective parcel for which a package record is saved in a memory, periodically generate signals, via a global communications network, to an appropriate a respective carrier shipping status system [from]of a plurality of carrier shipping status systems at [the]a respective electronic address on the global communications network for the respective carrier computer system, wherein said signals request[ing] a shipping status for a particular the respective

parcel.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels by a plurality of users using a plurality of carriers, wherein each respective user of the plurality of users accesses the computer system using a respective user client computer device, said computer system comprising:

a plurality of server computer devices remotely accessible to the plurality of user client computer devices via a global communications network,

wherein each server computer device is programmed to perform at least one a plurality of activities in support of a particular function of a plurality of functions, ~~wherein each server computer device is programmed to support a different particular function,~~ and wherein each particular function of the plurality of functions contributes to managing shipping of the plurality of parcels, and wherein at least one server computer device of the plurality of server computer devices is programmed to poll respective carrier systems via the global communications network for tracking information.

27. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

~~apply,~~ in response to [a]each respective request by [any]each respective particular-user of a plurality of users to ship a respective parcel, apply a set of carrier-specific shipping location rules for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers to a respective default shipping location associated with the respective user and to a respective set of parcel specifications input by the particular requesting respective user, wherein each respective user accesses the shipping management computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with ~~having an individual electronic connection to~~ the global communications network.

28. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

~~apply, in response to [a]each respective request by [any]each respective particular-user of a plurality of users to ship a respective parcel, apply a set of carrier-specific parcel handling rules for each respective carrier of a plurality of cCarriers to a respective set of parcel specifications for [a]the respective parcel particular-package to be shipped, wherein said respective set of parcel specifications are input by the particular-requesting-respective user, wherein each respective user accesses the shipping management computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.~~

29. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

receive from each respective user of a plurality of users, a respective request to ship a respective particular parcel and a respective input of a respective set of parcel specifications for the respective particular parcel, wherein each respective user accesses the shipping management computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network, and wherein said respective set of parcel specifications comprises a parcel weight and at least one of: a parcel type, a set of parcel dimensions, and a parcel value; and

identify, in response to [a]each respective request and each respective input by [any]each respective particular-user of a plurality of users, identify each carrier [from]of a plurality of carriers that would support[s] shipping a particular the respective parcel according to [a]the respective set of parcel specifications

~~for a particular package input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.~~

30. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

collect [as]a set of parcel specifications for a particular parcel to be shipped by a first particular user, said set of parcel specifications user-input by the first user via a first user client computer device~~from the particular user from a plurality of users~~, said set of parcel specifications comprising at least one of: a parcel package-type, a set of parcel package-dimensions, package weight, and a value of the particular parcel, wherein [each] the first user accesses the shipping management computer system [over]via a global communications network using [a]the first user client computer device, and wherein the first [each] user client computer device is adapted for communications via ~~having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network; and~~

store in a database a record corresponding to the particular user, said record comprising an identifier for the particular user, and the parcel specifications for the particular parcelcollect a set of recipient information for a delivery to a second user of the particular parcel, said set of recipient information input by the second user via a second user client computer device, said set of recipient information comprising a delivery address, wherein the second user accesses the shipping management computer system via the global communications network using the second user client computer device, and wherein the second user client computer device is adapted for communications via the global communications network.

31. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

instruct each respective remote user client computer device of a plurality of remote user client computer devices over a global communications network to recognize a respective weight of a respective parcel as measured by a respective digital scale configured with [a]the respective remote user client computer device; and

instruct each respective remote user client computer device of the plurality of remote user client computer devices to return [a]the respective weight to the shipping management computer system.

32. (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of Claim 31, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:
receive [a]the respective weight communicated by each respective remote user client computer device over [a]the global communications network, ~~wherein the remote user client computer device is configured with a digital scale.~~

33. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:
communicate remotely with a plurality of user client computer devices via a network communications protocol;

receive each respective request, from each respective user of each respective user client computer device of the plurality of user client computer devices, to ship a respective parcel; and

in response to each respective request, display to a respective display device configured with the respective user client computer device for the respective user, each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a respective simultaneous preview of shipping rates, wherein said respective simultaneous preview of shipping rates comprises a service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rate for each respective delivery service offered by each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers that would support shipping the respective parcel~~for the particular user to ship a particular package, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user having an individual electronic~~

~~connection to the global communications network.~~

34. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

communicate remotely with a plurality of user client computer devices via a network communications protocol;

receive each respective request, from each respective user of each respective user client computer device of the plurality of user client computer devices, to ship a respective parcel; and

in response to each respective request, calculate for each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rate for each respective service of a plurality of services offered by each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers that would support [for] shipping [a]the respective particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

35. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

communicate remotely with a plurality of user client computer devices via a network communications protocol;

receive each respective request, from each respective user of each respective user client computer device of the plurality of user client computer devices, to ship a respective parcel; and

in response to each respective request, determine for each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a service-specific, carrier-specific delivery schedule for each respective service of a plurality of services offered by each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers that would support [for] shipping [a]the respective particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to

~~the global communications network.~~

36. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

communicate remotely with a plurality of user client computer devices via a network communications protocol;

receive each respective request, from each respective user of each respective user client computer device of the plurality of user client computer devices, to ship a respective parcel; and

in response to each respective request that includes an indication input by the respective user of at least one delivery notification service option, display to a respective display device configured with the respective user client computer device for the respective user, each of a plurality of users upon each user's request, as to each particular parcel to be shipped by the particular user, an identification of each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers that would provide a plurality of each delivery notification service option[s] indicated by the respective user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

37. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

communicate remotely with a plurality of user client computer devices via a network communications protocol;

receive each respective request, from each respective user of each respective user client computer device of the plurality of user client computer devices, to ship a respective parcel; and

in response to each respective request that includes an indication of at least one delivery notification service option, calculate, upon each request by each of a plurality of users, as to each particular parcel to be shipped by a particular user, a respective service charge by each respective carrier of a

plurality of carriers for each delivery notification service option indicated by the respective user that the particular-respective carrier supports for delivery of the particular-respective parcel ~~package to be shipped by the particular user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.~~

38. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

communicate remotely with a plurality of user client computer devices via a network communications protocol;

receive each respective request, from each respective user of each respective user client computer device of the plurality of user client computer devices, to ship a respective parcel; and

in response to each respective request that includes an indication of at least one delivery notification service option, identify to each respective user of a plurality of users, upon each user's request, as to each particular parcel to be shipped by the particular user, a respective service charge by each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers for each delivery notification service option indicated by the respective user that the particular-respective carrier supports for delivery of the respective parcel ~~particular package to be shipped by the particular user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.~~

39. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

communicate remotely with a plurality of user client computer devices via a network communications protocol;

receive each respective request, from each respective user of each respective user client computer device of the plurality of user client computer

devices, to ship a respective parcel; and

in response to each respective request that includes an indication of at least one delivery service option, display to a respective display device configured with the respective user client computer device for the respective user, each of a plurality of users, upon each user's request, as to each particular parcel to be shipped by the particular user, an identification of each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers that would provide a plurality of each delivery service option[s] indicated by the respective user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

40. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

communicate remotely with a plurality of user client computer devices via a network communications protocol;

receive each respective request, from each respective user of each respective user client computer device of the plurality of user client computer devices, to ship a respective parcel; and

in response to each respective request that includes an indication of at least one delivery service option, calculate, upon each request by each of a plurality of users, as to each particular parcel to be shipped by a particular user, a respective service charge by each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers for each service option indicated by the respective user that the particular respective carrier supports for delivery of the particular respective parcel/package to be shipped by the particular user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

41. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

communicate remotely with a plurality of user client computer devices via a network communications protocol;

receive each respective request, from each respective user of each respective user client computer device of the plurality of user client computer devices, to ship a respective parcel; and

in response to each respective request that includes an indication of at least one delivery service option, identify to each respective user of a plurality of users, upon each user's request, as to each particular parcel to be shipped by the particular user, a respective service charge by each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers for each delivery service option indicated by the respective user that the particular respective carrier supports for delivery of the respective parcel particular package to be shipped by the particular user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

42. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

communicate remotely with a plurality of user client computer devices via a network communications protocol;

receive each respective request, from each respective user of each respective user client computer device of the plurality of user client computer devices, to ship a respective parcel; and

in response to each respective request, display to a respective display device configured with the respective user client computer device for the respective user, each of a plurality of users, upon each user's request, as to each particular parcel to be shipped by each user, a[n] respective online interactive graphic comparison of a plurality of respective shipping rates, wherein each respective shipping rate is calculated for each respective service of a plurality of services offered by each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers to ship [a]the respective particular parcel, and wherein each respective shipping rate correspond[ing]s to a particular respective service offered by a particular

~~respective carrier for delivering the respective particular parcel to a respective particular delivery destination at a respective particular parcel delivery time on a respective particular parcel delivery date, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.~~

43. (Currently Amended) An online interactive shipping management computer system, said online interactive shipping management computer system programmed to:

communicate remotely with a plurality of user client computer devices via a network communications protocol;

receive a respective input from a respective user of a respective user client computer device of the plurality of user client computer devices, wherein said respective input modifies a previous respective request from the respective user to ship a respective parcel; and

in response to the respective input, regenerate a respective display of shipping information to a respective display device configured with the respective user client computer device for the respective user, wherein said respective display of shipping information is modified according to the respective at any particular remote user client computer device of a plurality of remote user client computer devices, based on modified input by [a]the particular respective user at a particular remote user client computer device, wherein the computer system communicates with each remote user client computer device over a global communications network.

44. (Currently Amended) An online interactive shipping management computer system, said online interactive shipping management computer system programmed to:

execute a set of computer instructions for generating an interactive user interface display of rating and schedule shipping information with a set of data input by a particular user from a particular remote user client computer device

~~that communicates with~~ connected to the online interactive shipping management computer system over a global communications network; and
generate the interactive user interface ~~shipping information display~~ comprising: the set of data input by the particular user, a result of the executed set of computer instructions, at least one data collection field initialized with a data item from the set of data input by the particular user, and an instruction to execute ~~[the]~~an executable set of instructions for regenerating the interactive user interface display in response to a user modification of data in the at least one data collection field.

45. (Currently Amended) The online interactive shipping management computer system of Claim [43]~~44~~, said online interactive shipping management computer system further programmed to:

~~distribute with the~~ interactive user interface ~~shipping information display~~ to the particular remote user client computer device, said interactive user interface display further comprising the~~[an]~~ executable set of ~~the executed computer instructions for regenerating the interactive user interface display with the instruction to execute the executable set of instructions in response to a user modification of the initialized data in the data collection field.~~

46. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

~~apply, in response to a request by a~~[ny] respective particular user of a plurality of users to ship a respective parcel, wherein said request comprises a single billing option preference, apply a respective carrier-specific set of billing option rules for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers to ~~[a]~~the single billing option preference ~~input by the particular requesting user, wherein [each] the respective user accesses the shipping management computer system over a global communications network using a respective client computer device, and wherein the [each] respective user client computer device is adapted for communication via having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.~~

47. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

~~identify, in response to a request by a[ny] respective particular user of a plurality of users[,] to ship a respective parcel, wherein said request comprises a particular billing option preference, identify each respective carrier [from]of a plurality of carriers that supports [a]the particular billing option preference input by the particular requesting user for shipping [a]the respective particular parcel, wherein [each]the respective user accesses the shipping management computer system over a global communications network using a respective client computer device, and wherein the respective [each] user client computer device is adapted for communications via ~~having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.~~~~

48. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

~~collect as a respective billing option preference for each particular respective user of a plurality of users, a respective user input from each respective the particular user of an identification of a billing option preference for parcels to be shipped by the respective particular user, wherein each respective user accesses the shipping management computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communications via ~~having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network; and~~~~

~~store in a database a respective record for corresponding to each respective particular user, wherein each said respective record compris[ing]es an identifier for the respective particular user and the respective billing option preference for the respective particular user.~~

49. (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of Claim 48, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

identify, in response to a request by any particular respective user of [a]the plurality of users[,] to ship a particular respective parcel, identify each carrier [from]of a plurality of carriers that would support[s] shipping [a]the particular respective parcel according to a carrier-specific ratable weight, wherein the particular respective parcel is characterized by a respective set of parcel characteristics, wherein said respective set of parcel characteristics translate into a respective set of carrier-specific particular-ratable weights, wherein each carrier-specific ratable weight is calculated according to carrier-specific ratable dimensional-weight calculation rules for [each]the respective carrierof the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

50. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

communicate remotely with a plurality of user client computer devices via a network communications protocol;

receive each respective request, from each respective user of each respective user client computer device of the plurality of user client computer devices, to ship a respective parcel, wherein each said respective request comprises a respective origin postal code and a respective destination postal code;

determine for each respective request, of a plurality of users upon input by each user of a particular origin postal code and a particular destination postal code a[n] respective carrier-specific origin rating zone identifier corresponding to the particular-respective origin postal code for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers;[,] and

determine for each respective request, a respective carrier-specific destination rating zone identifier corresponding to the particular-respective destination postal code for each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the shipping management computer system over a

~~global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.~~

51. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

communicate remotely with a plurality of user client computer devices via a network communications protocol;

receive each respective request, from each respective user of each respective user client computer device of the plurality of user client computer devices, to ship a respective parcel, wherein each said respective request comprises a shipping date, a respective origin postal code and a respective destination postal code;

determine from a respective set of delivery times for each respective service of a plurality of services for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, a respective potential delivery schedule for each respective service ~~of the plurality of services for each of the plurality of carriers in response to a request by each of a plurality of users to ship [a]the respective particular parcel,~~ wherein each user accesses the shipping management computer system over a ~~global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.~~

52. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

~~recognize,~~ in response to a particular user of a plurality of users using a particular remote user client computer device to print a shipping label for shipping a particular parcel using a particular carrier [from]of a plurality of carriers, recognize a set of graphic resolution characteristics of a printer device configured with the particular remote user client computer device, wherein each respective user of the plurality of users accesses the shipping management computer system over a global communications network using a respective remote user

client computer device, and wherein each remote user client computer device is adapted for communications via ~~having an individual electronic connection to the~~ global communications network.

53. (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of Claim 52, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:
create a shipping label image bearing a dimensionally accurate symbology for display on a display device configured with the particular remote user client computer device for printing on the ~~particular~~ printer device.